

Charge- Reimbursement of student fees (with interest) to Rutgers students if their student fees are diverted from academics to athletics to supplement or finance the mounting debt/deficit of the Rutgers athletics program.

Examine the allocation and utilization of all non-academic and athletics programs that are funded in part or in full by student fees all Rutgers Campus's. If deemed appropriate, recommend policy and process changes that would prevent student fees from being redistributed from academics to athletics. Refer to student caucus proposal for this charge when deliberating. Identify issues to be further considered by the Senate Budget and Finance Committee.

Rational for Charge to be submitted by Student Caucus

A number of students across all Rutgers campuses are feeling the increasing financial burden of mounting student fees that are being utilized for athletics and non-program specific programs rather than academics. This not only leads to mistrust of the students towards the faculty and governing body at Rutgers, but it also puts the financial and academic interests of students at risk. This has led many students to question if Rutgers is becoming an athletics institution vice academic institution. Currently, the 2014 Ad Hoc Committee on Athletics of the New Brunswick Faculty Council on the Athletics Program's Revenues, Expenditure and Deficits (as approved by the Faculty Council on April 25, 2014) concluded that the Rutgers athletics program is in trouble. After completing a highly detailed analysis of all revenues and expenses of the entire Rutgers athletic program from 2004 to 2013, Rutgers faculty concluded that expenditures have substantially exceeded revenues resulting in a very large deficit. In particular, in 2013 the annual deficit was \$47 million dollars, much in part due to a large excess of regular and recurring expenditures over regular and recurring revenues year in and out. This report also concludes that the University's financial plan for the athletics program calls for a future deficit of an additional \$183 million dollars between 2013 and 2022. According to this report and during this entire time period, the athletics program deficit actual and projected will exceed \$400 million dollars. By 2021-2022 the athletics program is projected to operate at a deficit. Most critically, this report concluded that this deficit will be heavily subsidized by student fees that alternatively will not be going towards academics. It should be noted that the report does not conclude that the use of student fees to cover part of the athletics deficit has had any direct impact on University academic programs. It does make clear however, that this practice will add hundreds of dollars per year to the fees paid by each fulltime undergraduate student. If we are to truly consider ourselves an academic institution that enhances the educational opportunities of all of our students it is incumbent on us to seek to mitigate these financial burdens as much as we can on our students. The Senate Budget and Finance Committee shall look at these financial burdens, as well as others not enumerated in this charge but which the Committee may find relevant in the course of discussion, and investigate changes the University can make to ensure student fees are going to academics and enhancing the University environment, their original intention. This includes not only changes to current policies which may inhibit such activity, but also affirmative steps the University may take to promote an enhanced educational pathway for all of its students by limiting their financial burden to the school. Furthermore, in an effort to fully protect and secure the financial and educational future of all Rutgers students, the University needs to be charged with providing an IOU with interest or a monetary payback system on any and all Rutgers student fees if they

are diverted from academics to athletics. More specifically, Rutgers students should have their student fees paid back in full or at interest if their student fees are being utilized to finance or supplement the mounting cost, debt and deficit of the athletics program and/or non-academic specific programs.